

Hi-Q

Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

THE WAY IT WAS..... VE3AYZ

I've been asked for information on my many lifetime radio activities. First, I received my Amateur certificate on June 30, 1930, signed by Patrick Joseph O'Shea. This certificate signed by Pat, I treasure. Later, I attended the Marconi Radio School in Toronto and secured my 2nd Class Commercial operators certificate, which permitted me to operate from various radio stations in Canada.

My first job was with the Ontario Forestry Branch at fire stations and Forestry commercial stations. Next, with ship station the Tug Whalen putting out lighthouse staff at lighthouses on Northern Lake Superior and picking up the keepers in the fall. I also served as "Sparks" on the S.S. Bayton with the call sign 'VGNW". This ship sailed from Thunder Bay to Southern ports on the Great Lakes. Both of these vessels were equipped with SPARK TRANSMITTERS! I also believe I was the only radio operator on the Great Lakes that a Captain threatened to throw overboard if I did not immediately shut down my spark transmitter, as it was a very noisy rig. Maybe more about that threat later.

Finally, a year round job at Pickle Lake, Northern Ontario, north of the Albany River. This station was an Ontario Forestry Branch commercial station. The staff of three handled messages for the mines in the area numerous aircraft companies, and many public messages, all on C.W. I had a great time there, the rip roaring miners and the small community of people shall not be forgotten.

TO BE CONTINUED.....Les Harris VE3AYZ

Editor's Note: Patrick Joseph O'Shea VE3FW was the first president of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. Legend has it, before the days of the VE3 prefixes, his call was "FW". As you can imagine, Les has left out a great deal of interesting detail about his early days, such as working as a messenger for the CPR and learning continental code from the telegraph operators there. He told me a delightful story about getting into the hockey games at the old Prince of Wales arena (where the post office is now) for free. He carried in a box containing a telegraph set up and plugged into a circuit provided at the arena that fed back to CPR station. Whenever a goal was scored, Les would telegraph the particulars back to the station for furtherance down the wire. Watch for more articles by Les about the early days of Amateur Radio at the Head of the Lakes.

ATTENTION !

CODE CLASSES STARTING JANUARY 15 CONDUCTED BY NORM VE3XRC. STARTS WEDNESDAYS 7 TO 8 P.M. AT 217 UNIVERSITY DRIVE. PLEASE ADVISE NORM AT 577-9316 IF YOU ARE ATTENDING SO THAT SUFFICIENT MATERIAL CAN BE PREPARED.

QSL'ing

You have received your station licence and Call; GREAT DAY, you are on the air and making contacts. You have ordered your QSL cards. A QSL card is an exchange card to verify a contact was made on the air.

Your QSL card must show pertinent information about that contact ... such as call of the station worked...operators name, and country, province, state of the station i.e. the destination to where your cards are going. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY! This helps in the processing of your QSL cards. The Bureaus sort the cards by call letter, usually many pounds of them at a time. Then they go to a volunteer who looks after the calls assigned to him or her, to be sorted and filed. Then they are mailed to you with Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) that you should provide at the incoming bureau of your particular area.

This information pinpoints the receiver of the QSL card. When a station has a QSL manager, the managers call must be shown, as well as the station worked, to facilitate proper routing. Some other requirements on the card are DATE, TIME in UNIVERSAL COORDINATED TIME, Band and Frequency, and the signal report and mode. Your name, call and address are usually printed on the face of the card and need not be elsewhere. (if you are qsl-ing a rare station or dx-pedition it sometimes helps to put your name and call on both sides....ed)

Now, you have made out your card, you may send it directly to the person, as listed in the Callbooks, making sure

there is sufficient postage to reach the destination (again if you are qsl-ing rare stations you may want to review some magazine articles regarding the inclusion on "Green Stamps" ...ed) or you can send your card to the World Wide QSL bureaus that are listed in the callbooks. The callbooks detail the areas, bureaus and radio clubs involved in handling cards.

If you are a member of ARRL you may send your bundle of cards, along with the address label from your QST (to prove membership) and \$1.00 US funds to: ARRL QSL Bureau, 225 Main Street., Newington, Connecticut 06111 (there is a limit of three bundles per year). Sort your cards alphabetically according to destination for USA and out of country.

If you are a member of CARF (Canadian Amateur Radio Federation) you may send all your outgoing cards, for anywhere in the world, free. You must place your CARF # on the package of QSL cards (again to prove membership) or on your individual QSLs. Sort alphabetically by destination and mail to: CARF, Box 66, Islington, Ont. M9A 4X1.

The DX association provides privileges to their members for sending QSLs to various countries other than North America.

Now you have sent off your QSL Card and you expect to get a card from him or her. They may not wish to send direct as postage for individual cards is expensive, so they send your card via the various bureaus. For amateurs who live in Ontario, you should keep a couple of SASE's at our bureau -- the VE3 QSL BUREAU, the Ontario Trilliums A.R.C., Box 157, Downsview, Ontario, M3M 3A3.

This article was shamelessly stolen from a letter from Thelma VE3CLT via Norm VE3XRC.

Can Recycling Pick-up.

Gary VE3FLM requests your assistance in a recycling effort by Environment North.

The depot which will be open on the last Saturday of each month between 10 AM and 4 PM (excluding the month of December) is located on Memorial Avenue across from Intercity.

To facilitate the can recycling process Environment North requests that food cans be stripped of paper labels and cleaned. Compacting the cans will assist in the handling process.

For the convenience of fellow operators I will be on hand at the Blue Parrot Saturday breakfast and will collect your cans for transport to the depot.

73s; Gary.

SOFTWARE

REVIEW ---VE3KRH

TNC Driver V1.37

TNC Driver V1.37 (C) Jon Welch 03/01/91 Registration fee 10#

This program was downloaded from a land line BBS in Winnipeg for me. At first glance, it looks like a normal every day packet TNC driver program. After going through the documentation, I came to realize all the features that could be available in this program. I say could be because this program comes with the best parts crippled until registration. Even crippled, it makes a very good terminal program for all makes of TNCs. Let's just take a look at what is available with out registration; TNC terminal program either split screen or full screen. Supports COM1 or COM2. ASCII up and downloads. YAPP up and downloads. 500 line scroll back buffer with string search. Screen dump and marked block scroll back buffer

dump. 20 programmable F keys. The other 20 are preprogrammed. That's not too bad, considering it didn't cost anything. Now let's take a look at what registering it does; All of the above, plus; Connect directory. Directory browser. File editor. Connect monitor. Monitor data (ASCII, HEX, or BIN.). Script file usage. Locator calculator. Note pad. Xmodem and Ymodem file transfer protocols for LAND LINE BBSs. FAX receive capture save and review. SSTV receive capture save and review. RTTY receive. Personal Message System. (PMS) Timed script execution. UUcoding of files. Probably more but that's enough to play with for now.

This software was written to work with the Kantronics KPC4. Jon does mention that it will work with any TNC with possible exception for the SSTV, FAX and RTTY capabilities. It doesn't transmit SSTV, FAX, or RTTY, just receives it. When I get back on HF, I will try those modes out and let you know more about that some of that stuff. I have been using this software with the Kantronics KAM since December 14, 1991 and have found it very compatible. I particularly like the script file capabilities. The CONNECT DIRECTORY is all done with scripts also. With the use of scripts, you can have this program connect to the local BBS and list through the bulletins and even read the ones containing certain key words which you define in the script. It can then go on to read and delete your personal mail. Forwarding is also accomplished with the use of script files if you choose to enable the Personal Message System. A mail snatch script can retrieve your mail when detected in the mail beacon from the local BBS. Then it comes time to call a Land Line BBS, if you want to. Press ALT Z and switch to full screen, toggle the local echo off, change COM ports in necessary, and call up a script to dial your favourite BBS. You still get to enjoy your favourite ANSI screens when you sign on because this software

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supports that kind of stuff too. I have used both the Xmodem and Ymodem protocols and they work like they are supposed to. The script language can be simple or, depending on what you want to do, it can get quite extensive. One last thing, the software is for IBM and/or compatibles (sorry Nestor). Jon has notified me that he has released V1.40 so I can look forward to that in February or March. If you want to know any more about this software, get in touch with me and I will be glad to show you what it can do. Remember, support the shareware concept. 73, de Steve 'VE3KRH'.

TORNADO !

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, TORNADO DETECTION!

You can use your TV set or radio as a tornado warning device. Use the TV set first. Warm it up and tune in channel 13; darken the screen to almost black, using the brightness control. Next, tune in channel 2 and turn the volume control down. Your tornado detection device is now in operation.

Lightning will produce momentary white bands of varying widths across the screen (colored sets produce colored bands). A tornado within 15 or 20 miles away will produce a totally white screen, which will remain white (or a totally colored screen on colored sets). This occurs because lightning and tornadoes generate RF energy at about 55 MHz (channel 2), which overrides the brightness control.

Channel 13, which is at the high end of the VHF band is not affected. That is why the brightness control is set at that channel. If the screen whites out (or colors out), turn off your TV set, take your portable radio, and seek shelter immediately.

Use the portable radio for emergency

instructions, and in case of power failure. If the radio is turned to the 550 kHz-1600 kHz AM band, lightning will cause intermittent static. A tornado will cause steady continuous static. Most homes have these two warning devices handy. It might be well to keep a copy of the instructions near your radio or TV during tornado season. — *Original article appeared in the fall 1991 issue of THE OMik Communicator; reprinted here from Issue 5, Radio Fun, December 1991.*

CLASS NEWS

We've progressed through a couple of classes now, and the students are still hanging in there! At the last class, Randy Creighton VE3CBO taught inductors, capacitance and reactance and impedance. These are not easy subjects but Randy did a great job. Don't worry if you didn't pick up on it this time, we will review it in a future class. Also, the exam does not require a great in-depth knowledge of these subjects. The next class (January 16th) will be significantly different. We are going to play! I'll bring in some radio and packet stuff and we'll see if we can put it together so that it works. This will give us a break from all the math and theory, and give us a chance to get some hands on experience. The textbooks have arrived and have been distributed at the last class, if you did not receive yours please contact me S.A.P. so I can get it to you without any further delays. Call me at home at 622-1216 or at work at 625-5640.

VHF DUCTING

Last Sunday, December 29th, you may have heard some strange calls on our repeater. Apparently, weather conditions allowed a great deal of ducting to occur. Ducting happens when different temperature layers of air forms pathways for VHF signals. On our local machine were heard repeaters from southern Ontario. At work, we intercepted calls from police departments from New York state. With the abnormally warm winter, keep listening, it's bound to happen again!

THIS SPACE FOR RENT